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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AEC-11

EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /172 W
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R 291836Z NOV 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, TU, GE
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF PLAN TO SEND TURKISH TROOPS TO GERMANY

REF: A. ANKARA 8668

B. STATE 222908

C. USNATO 5559

SUMMARY. GENESIS OF TURKISH AND UK PRESS REPORTS OF PLAN TO REPLACE REDUCED US FORCES IN GERMANY WITH TURKISH TROOPS IS APPARENTLY A PAPER WRITTEN BY UK OFFICER IN OCTOBER 1972.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN OCTOBER 1972, BRIGADIER ANTHONY HEYWOOD, UK ARMY,
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WHILE SERVING ON THE STAFF, NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE, WROTE A PAPER ENTITLED "FILLING THE GAP IN THE CENTRAL REGION." PAPER PROPOSES REPLACING REDUCED US FORCES IN GERMANY WITH AN ADDITIONAL TURKISH ARMY CORPS CREATED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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3. COMPARISON OF PAPER WITH TURKISH PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL A) INDICATES THAT HEYWOOD'S PAPER IS PROBABLY THE GENESIS FOR THOSE REPORTS.

3. TEXT OF HEYWOOD'S PAPER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. FILLING THE GAP IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

WHEN THE CURRENT NATO STRATEGIC DOCTRINE OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE WAS ADOPTED IN 1967, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT STRONG CONVENTIONAL FORCES MUST BE RETAINED AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SHIELD SO AS NOT TO LOWER THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD. SINCE 1967, MANY NATO GOVERNMENTS HAVE FOUND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE CONVENTIONAL FORCES UP TO THE NUMBERS REQUESTED BY THE NATO COMMANDERS.

IN SPITE OF INCREASED SPENDING BY THE SOVIETS ON DEFENSE AND CONSTANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES FACING SACEUR'S COMMAND, THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE ALLIES OF CONVENTIONAL GROUND FORCES HAVE DIMINISHED. SOMETIMES, THIS HAS BEEN CALLED "RESTRUCTURING" BUT IT HAS NEVERTHELESS REDUCED THE GROUND FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION TO A LEVEL AT WHICH, IN THE WORDS OF GENERAL BENNECKE, "THEY ARE JUST ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB". THERE ARE FEW RESERVES EVEN AT ARMY GROUP LEVEL AND THE POLICY OF FORWARD DEFENSE STRETCHES RESOURCES TO THE LIMIT.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, DUE TO THE VIETNAM WAR, IS FACING PRESSURES WITHIN THE U.S.A. FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OR AT LEAST PART OF THE 310,000 PERSONNEL IN EUROPE. BESIDES THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY, THE US. SEVENTH ARMY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE LARGEST COMPONENT, AMOUNTS TO SOME 195,000 MEN AND IS ORGANISED INTO TWO CORPS.FIFTH U.S. CORPS, 50,000 STRONG BASED ON FRANKFURT; SEVENTH U.S. CORPS, 55,000 STRONG CENTRED ON STUTTGART AND THE BERLIN BRIGADE. THE CORPS INCLUDE FOUR AND ONE THIRD DIVISIONS OF WHICH TWO ARE ARMOURED
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DIVISIONS AND THE OTHERS MECHANISED INFANTRY. THE OTHER TWO THIRDS OF ONE DIVISION ARE DUAL-BASED IN THE U.S.A. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE 2ND AND 11TH ARMOURED CAVALRY REGIMENTS TOTALLING 6,000 MEN PATROLLING THE BORDER TO THE EAST.

THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE IS VITAL TO NATO AND PRESIDENT NIXON HAS STATED THAT U.S. FORCES WILL REMAIN. HOWEVER, IT IS UNREALISTIC TO SUPPOSE THAT THE PRESSURE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.S.A. MAY NOT IN THE FUTURE FORCE THE U.S.A. TO REDUCE THE CURRENT STRENGTH OF THE SEVENTH ARMY POSSIBLY BY AS MUCH AS THE REMOVAL OF ONE OF THE TWO CORPS. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT UNLESS THE CORPS IS DISBANDED, IT WILL COST MORE TO DUAL-

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BASE IT IN THE U.S.A. LEAVING ITS HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN GERMANY
SO IT CAN RE-DEPLOY IN TIMES OF TENSION AS IS PRACTISED IN THE
REFORGER EXERCISE PROGRAMME.WHETHER THIS DUAL-BASING OF SO
LARGE A PROPORTION OF THE OPERATIONAL STRENGTH IS A CREDIBLE
DETERRENT IS OPEN TO QUESTION.

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U.S. PUBLIC OPINION IS AWARE THAT THE STATIONING OF U.S.
FORCES IN EUROPE IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CAUSING CRISIS IN THE U.S. ECONOMY AND THE PEOPLE LOOK TO
EUROPEAN NATIONS TO SHARE A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE COST
OF THEIR OWN DEFENCE.

CURRENTLY THE U.S. ARMY IS RECRUITING A VOLUNTARY ARMY AND
ALTHOUGH PAY AND ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN INCREASED AND RECRUITING
IS SATISFACTORY AT PRESENT, OFFICIALS AND SENIOR OFFICERS ARE
NOT PREPARED TO PREDICT THE RE-ENLISTMENT RATE OR THE EFFECT
OF THE REMOVAL NEXT JUNE OF THE "BIG STICK" - THE DRAFT WHICH
HAS IN THE PAST ENABLED THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TO FILL THEIR
RANKS WITH VOLUNTEERS. IT MAY WELL BE THAT COMMITMENTS WILL
HAVE TO BE CUT WHEN THE CEILING UP TO WHICH THE ARMY CAN RECRUIT
HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

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SHOULD THE AXE FALL ON THE SEVENTH ARMY, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO RAISE AN EXTRA CORPS TO FILL THE GAP. HOWEVER,THERE IS ONE NATO COUNTRY WHICH COULD AND THAT IS TURKEY.

THE TURKS ARE TRADITIONALLY WONDERFUL FIGHTING SOLDIERS AND THEIR EXPLOITS IN THE KOREAN WAR ARE FRESH IN EVERYONE'S MEMORY. THEY HAVE ABUNDANT MANPOWER, UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND NO LESS THAN HALF A MILLION OF THEIR NATIONALS WORK IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE INVITED TO RAISE AN ADDITIONAL ARMY CORPS OF, SAY, TWO MECHANISED INFANTRY DIVISIONS AND ONE ARMOURED DIVISION WITH APPROPRIATE CORPS TROOPS UNDER A TURKISH CORPS COMMANDER TO BE STATIONED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND TO BE ASSIGNED IN PEACETIME TO CENTRAL ARMY GROUP UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE U.S. GENERAL COMCENTAG. IT WOULD REPLACE EITHER FIFTH OR SEVENTH CORPS AND ENABLE THE U.S. TO RETAIN THREE "M DAY" DIVISIONS AT FULL STRENGTH THUS DISPENSING WITH THE DUAL-BASED GROUND FORCES WHICH ARE OF DOUBTFUL VALUE.

THE ARMOURED CAVALRY REGIMENTS SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED BY TURKISH UNITS AND THE U.S. MUST RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATROLLING THE FRONTIER.

THE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS TURKISH CORPS INCLUDING THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER CUSTODIAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE PROVIDED AT NO COST BY THE U.S. AND THE ANNUAL RECURRING COSTS OF MAINTINING THE CORPS (TO INCLUDE PAY AND ALLOWANCES) COULD BE MET BY THE EURO-GROUP AS AN INDICATION TO THE U.S. THAT THE EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE PREPARED TO PAY A HIGHER SHARE FOR THEIR OWN DEFENCE. A VERY LARGE PROPORTION WOULD DOUBTLESS BE VOLUNTEERED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

BESIDES THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO TURKEY, THE STATIONING OF TURKISH FORCES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WOULD ENABLE THE TURKISH ARMY TO PROVIDE "OVERSEAS SERVICE" AS AN INDUCEMENT TO RECRUTIMENT AND TO ROTATE THEIR FORCES IN TURKEY WITH THOSE IN GERMANY. THE SOLDIERS SHOULD FEEL AT HOME IN GERMANY AMONGST HALF A MILLION OF THEIR FELLOW
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COUNTRYMEN AND IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT TURKEY SHOULD COMMIT MANPOWER IN GERMANY TO HELP IN THEIR DEFENCE.

FURTHERMORE, THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE TURKISH ARMY BY ONE POWERFUL CORPS WOULD PROVIDE A BETTER CAREER STRUCTURE FOR

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OFFICERS AND NCO'S, PROVIDE THE ARMY WITH EXPERIENCE IN USING MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT, IMPROVE TRAINING AND PROVIDE INDUCEMENTS FOR LEARNING GERMAN AND ENGLISH AND HOPEFULL HELP MORALE ALREADY HIGH IN THE TURKISH ARMY.

FOR NATO, THE ACQUISTION OF A CORPS OF FINE FIGHTING SOLDIERS WHICH COULD QUICKLY BE TRAINED TO A HIGH STANDARD AND, BY AGREEMENT, BE MAINTAINED FULLY MANNED UP TO ESTABLISHMENT WOULD COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF A U.S. CORPS.

THE PRESENCE OF TURKISH TROOPS IN THE CENTRAL REGION WOULD ADD TO NATO SOLIDARITY AND YET MAINTAIN THE ESSENTIAL PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE, ALBEIT AT A LOWER STRENGTH.

END QUOTE.
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